

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus Apparatus for the distribution of distributing a random stream of items [[(10)]] into several lanes (11 to 16) in which are adapted to transport the items (10) are transported individually one after the other, the apparatus comprising:

a transport device (20) for the items (10) which has at least one or more driven conveyor belt[[s]], [[(22)]] and a pair of side rails [[(24)]], displaced from one another and bordering the conveyor belt, the transport device transporting the stream of items in a direction of transport;

a lane divider (30) which has several including at least one movable divider[[s (34)]] which divides adapted to divide the stream of transported items [[(10),]]; and

a device [[(40)]] for driving the lane divider (30), by which the dividers (34) being movable transversely to the direction of transport, characterized in that the lane divider (30) comprises a frame (32), to which the dividers (34) are fixed, and that the dividers (34) carry out a such that the at least one movable divider moves back and forth movement simultaneously in the direction of transport and transversely to it.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Apparatus The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one divider is one of several movable dividers which includes a middle divider (34) projects projecting against the direction of transport and [[the]] side dividers (34) are set back staggered with respect to the middle divider.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Apparatus The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the distance between the side rails (26, 36) is increased stepwise incrementally in the direction of transport, the increase commencing at a point which in front of a front edge of a frontmost divider, wherein a distance from the edge to the point corresponds approximately to a dimension the diameter of an one of the item (10) items in front of the tip of the frontmost divider (34).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Apparatus The apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that ~~the steps (28, 29, 38)~~ wherein the incremental increases are rounded in a grooved manner.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Apparatus The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the rail~~ wherein at least one of the side rails is divided and [[the]] a part [[(36)]] of the rail ~~in the area of the lane divider (30) can is adapted to be moved outwards.~~

Claim <sup>6</sup>~~6~~ (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the front edge is formed in the shape of a tip.

Claim <sup>7</sup>~~7~~ (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the dimension is a diameter of a cylindrical item.

Claim <sup>8</sup>~~8~~ (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lane divider includes a frame, and at least one movable divider is fixed to the frame.